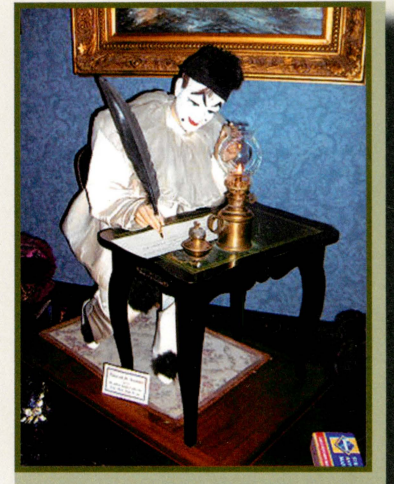


C.O.C.A. TIMES

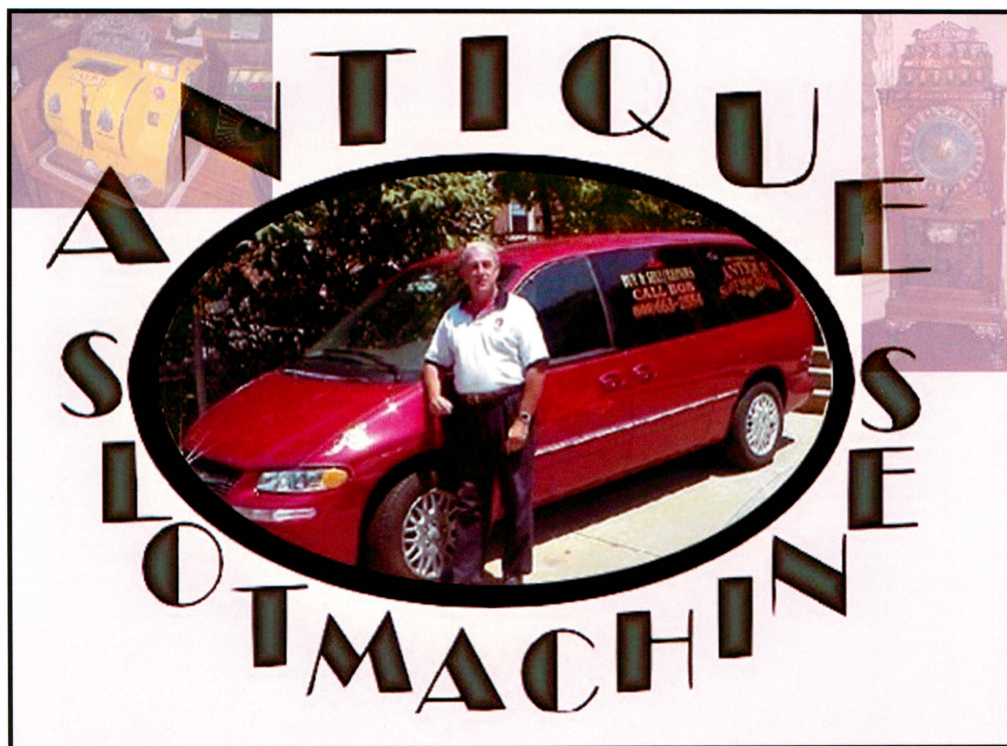
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Message from Our President

It just keeps getting better and better. That's what the C.O.C.A. convention mantra will be from now on. I will not elaborate too much now, there are lots of great photos inside that will cause you to regret not being there, or bring back some great memories. We had members as far away as England who flew in just to attend this event. Inside you will find auction results and a photo story of the weekend's events. I can't say enough about the members who volunteered their time and efforts to make this happen. Dan Davids spearheaded this event, all I can say is Thank You - Thank You - Thank You. To those members who opened up their homes, hearts (and kitchens.) Barry Goldfarb, Greg McLemore and Frank and Shirley Nix, you all went above and beyond, it is with great respect and admiration I say thank you for allowing us into your homes. A special thanks to Donna Goldfarb. Donna's winery tours and wit (not to mention the free jars of homemade honey for the women) was as much fun as the tours themselves.

At this time we currently have the summer 2006 convention scheduled for Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The following members have agreed to share their incredible collections with us - Frank Zygmunt, Alan Sax,

Jack Freund and Paul Hindin. The vast array of gambling, vending, arcade machines and trade stimulators will be worth the trip.

Due to the time change of the Chicagoland Show the meeting will be held at 7:30 on Friday night. Our guest speaker is none other than Joe Welch himself, owner of one of the largest gambling collections in California. He will be bringing some great stores and pictures. We will be bringing back the silent auction, some items will be donated for the club and others will be auctioned (with or without a reserve.) The reserve price will be sealed in an envelope and at the end of the meeting we will match the last highest price with the reserve price to see if the item sold. There are still a few discounted rooms available for C.O.C.A. members at the St. Charles Hilton - for reservations, call 630-584-0700.

A special thanks to Ken Rubin for that outstanding article on cigar vendors. I think it should have been called - "Everything You Wanted to Know About Cigar Vendors, But Were Afraid to Ask." Believe it or not there is more - look for a "Part II" in this issue. I hope by the time you read this the new website will be up and running. Spend some time there www.coinopclub.org and

continued on next page

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let us know how you like it. There will be chat rooms and real time info that will be useful to anyone interested in collecting coin operated machines. I hope to see you there one day. Thanks again Greg, for helping to bring C.O.C.A. into the 21st century. To partially offset the increased costs of the website, magazine, postage increases, etc, the dues are being raised to 33.00.

This is the last President's Message I will be writing. Many thanks to all those who have helped me get through the past 2 years. C.O.C.A. is managed by volunteers; we do not have a payroll or secretaries. Without the support of folks like Paul Hindin, John Carini, Dan Davids, Al Fox, Randy and Sue Razzoog and all those members that routinely write articles, opened up

their homes and advertised routinely in our magazine we would not be here today. I believe the organization will get bigger and stronger. The website, magazine and annual conventions will make membership in C.O.C.A. even more appealing. I am looking forward to the next set of newly elected officers taking us to new heights. It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as President. God speed to all (especially when finding that next coin-op piece.)

Alex Warschaw
President



E-BAY WATCH

by Nick Carini

Is the market fickle or what? I've spent a lot of my summer just watching the prices on E-Bay (and getting an occasional good deal). But I sure have noticed a lot of odd things. Especially in the coin-op arena. For example, just a few weeks back I watched a restored Oak Acorn gum machine sell for \$232.50. The restoration was nice, but nothing spectacular. And there was a whopping 30 bids on it. Similarly, I watched an un-restored Oak National penny peanut machine (some peanut damage) sell for \$184.50 - with 21 bids! I guess I'm a little perplexed as we feel lucky to sell restored Oak Acorn's for \$75.

Last month, I watched a plain red case yellow kid Pulver, in good shape, end for \$910. And ending around the same time, was an early wooden Zeno chewing gum machine. It wasn't working, and the wood was somewhat rough, yet after 14 bids, the machine ended for \$1,525. A nice Mills Silent War Eagle Penny slot machine, in nice working condition, sold for an amazing \$3,500 plus \$200 shipping fee. In all of these cases, I have seen better condition machines going for a fraction of the price at the Chicagoland show.

Now, not everything on E-Bay is going high. Columbus machines were selling pretty low for the past few months. And I've gotten a few bargains (mostly people who don't know what they have, and they've listed the item in the wrong category). But, some transactions are

downright strange. A plain 1930s sheet metal Northwestern match machine ended for \$170, while a nice Morris Match in good restored shape ended for \$250. A nicely restored Climax didn't reach its \$2000 reserve, yet another one in poor condition sold for \$2,500. I also saw a restored tall globe Hance not reach its \$2,200 reserve, while a standard Rex in average condition sold for \$3,500.

I've spent some time pondering these transactions, and have several theories. First, I think some are new, inexperienced buyers over-bidding. Some individuals just starting out really don't know what certain items are worth. I've also heard people talking about not wanting to buy from other dealers. They would rather buy direct from estates and auctions and rummage sales. I've also seen an increase in people at general public auctions and estate sales, more bidding, and higher bidding. Just this morning I ran across a rough 5 cent Smith Miller 3-in-1 pencil dispenser at a local auction. The item wasn't advertised, so I thought I would be able to get it for a good price. It sold for \$120. And lastly, I've seen people listing items in wrong categories or with wrong descriptions. I've purchased a few bargains this way.

The only thing I know for sure, is I can't seem to accurately predict the antique market, particularly on E-bay.

FOREIGN FINDS

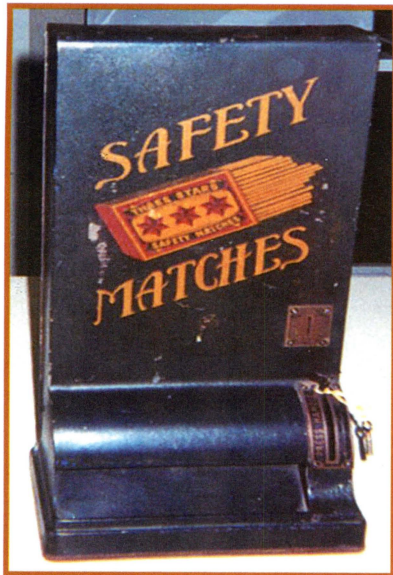
by John Carini

In May, we visited the Springfield Ohio Antique Extravaganza. This is the third time we've gone to this flea market. Not only is it a really big, nice flea market, there are 3 huge antique malls just minutes away. You can literally spend days antiquing in this area. This year, we spotted a unique match machine. The dealer was asking \$575. I felt that was quite high, even though I had never seen this match machine before. Nick said he had just saw one sell at an Illinois auction for \$1800. After a bit of negotiation, she was willing to sell for \$500. She told us she just purchased it a few weeks prior for over \$300. I was surprised someone would bid that much money on something they knew nothing about, but she said she liked the graphics. We told her we would think about it.

We walked around for bit longer, and my wife told me I should get it for a father's day present. I went back and was able to purchase it for \$475. (see photo). The machine has a case iron base and sheet metal body. It's

a penny machine with nice graphics in good condition. The coin entry says "Made in Sweden". I also purchased a Morris match vendor with excellent graphics and full of "Rosebud" matches at the Springfield antique mall. Happy with our finds, we left for home.

In July, we picked up a small collection of mostly arcade and gum machines. But one piece in the collection is also a foreign machine. It's a French gumball machine. It looks quite boxy, and when I first saw it, I thought it was a trade stimulator (see photo). It's mostly oak, with a stained glass front window. I can't figure out why there is colored stained glass, as one would think you would want a clear glass display. There are 2 metal plates on the front with instructions, in French, listing the price of the gumball (1 F.) and how to operate the machine, along with the address of the route man. I'm guessing it's from the 1930s based on appearance. If anyone has details on this machine, please e-mail me or give me a call.



Sweden
Match Machine



Morris
Match Vendor



French
Gumball Machine

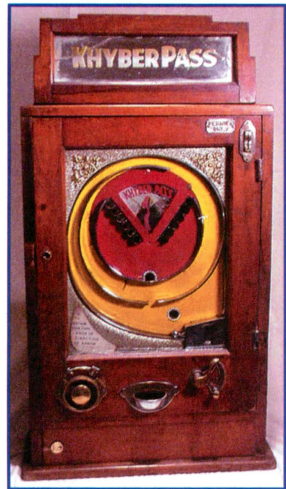
KHYBER PASS

by John Peterson

Why do you collect coin-operated machines? I'm willing to bet that the answers will be as varied as the number of collectors reading this. Even so, I think there are several common factors highly visible or lurking just beneath the surface. The first would be an attraction to things mechanical. You cannot be a serious collector of coin-op without an innate appreciation for the genius behind the mechanics. Second would be the almost child-like pleasure you derive from playing with your game. Third is what I call the "collector personality." For those who do not collect (e.g. most of our wives), it is hard, if not impossible to explain this motivation. To truly understand the attraction, you need look no further than into the eyes of a collector as he or she watches a favorite piece in action. It is akin to the eyes of a parent viewing a beloved child at play. For those of us lucky enough to have this collector personality, the correct question is not will we collect, but what will we collect? Finally, for many collectors, there comes a true appreciation for the historical benchmark these items serve when looking back into our past. Many of these games serve as a Rorschach test on society and the times of their creation. Is it truly just a game or

something much more? Let's take a look at a period game named "Khyber Pass" (Photo "A") and you tell me what you see.

As I have stated in earlier articles, I believe in fate. My talents are modest (just ask my ex-wife), but I believe that things happen for a reason and I try to be open to see and understand what takes place in my life. When I purchased the GLENN COLLECTION of 50



plus British wall machines back in 2002, I felt that I had been offered a small window into the past of British life by way of their games. Looking through that window has been a fascinating treat. I have glimpsed a nation at rest and a nation at war. I have seen the innocence of children at play as well as the struggle of citizens fighting to preserve their freedom. Games of frolic tug at our pocketbook; games of war pull at our soul.

The year was 1943 and Great Britain had long been

at war. It is somewhat difficult for Americans to fully appreciate the stress of a nation at war and under homeland attack. After all, our last experience was the Civil War, a self-inflicted wound of horrendous proportion over 140 years ago. (Author's note: Before any pick up pens and keyboards to take me to task for lack of patriotism or trivializing September 11th, 2001, please take note. I served as a Navy pilot for 10 years starting in 1969. I am currently an airline pilot. I flew out of New York City early the morning of September 11, 2001 and was airborne when the ATC system was shut down. I am not seeking to diminish our tragedy. My point is that we have been fortunate as a nation, if such can be called fortune, to fight our wars on foreign soils. It is another matter altogether to have your land under attack on a daily basis as did the English during periods of World War II.) In Great Britain, wartime rationing was in effect and the amusement trade was reduced to piecing together games from outstanding stock. Many of the major manufacturers of coin-operated games did not survive the war, British Manufacturing Company being a prime example. As Great Britain fought for her life, producers of entertainment rallied to the cause with games of openly patriotic themes, games that featured airplanes, flags and military men. I will introduce you to several of these in a later article, "Band of Brothers." Today, I wish to show you a game whose call to arms is more subtle but still as clear as any of the military themed games. This game is an allwin named "Khyber Pass" by Oliver Whales of Redcar, England.

As you know, most English games have no manufacturer's marking. A consistent exception to this rule was Oliver Whales. Most of the games produced by him carried his name and the moniker, "Fun City, Redcar." He began making games in the late 1930's in Redcar, York and went out of business in the 1960's. The vast majority of his games were allwins with a smattering of fortune tellers and stereo viewers thrown in for good measure. During the late 1940's the London firm of Ruffer and Walker acted as an agent for Whales. As a result, it is not uncommon to find an Oliver Whales allwin with the Ruffer and Walker nameplate prominently attached. Even so, if you look closely enough, you can usually find the name "Whales" somewhere on the machine. Oliver Whales' allwins were very reliable mechanically and proved themselves

as the workhorses of the arcades. For the most part, the backflash artwork tended toward utilitarian and somewhat unimaginative. There were exceptions as you shall see today.

Equal to the difficulty of determining the manufacturer of a game is the challenge of determining the date a British game was made. Most help here comes from the small publication by Paul Braithwaite entitled Acrades and Slot Machines with A – Z of British Manufacturers 1870 – 1970. While not claiming to be exhaustive, author Braithwaite provides the only real in-depth information about the British game industry, listing the manufacturers plus the names and dates of the games they produced. The section on Oliver Whales, catalogues 76 games. “Khyber Pass” is not one of them. Fate has smiled upon me here. Stamped on both the inside door of the machine as well as the interior case is an inked box that says this game was made by Oliver Whales and tested July 14, 1943 by workman ”H Smith.” I have over two dozen Whales games and I have never seen this stamp. Was it a wartime requirement? I have no idea. Whatever the reason, this dating spotlights a game that otherwise might have missed critical identification. Cast as a wartime soldier, “Khyber Pass” takes on completely new meaning at multiple levels.

Khyber Pass has special significance to the British. During the British Colonial Period of the 19th Century, Afghanistan acted as a buffer state between the Russian Empire and British India. Shifting alliances by the Emir of Afghanistan between Russia and England led to three separate wars between the British and the Afghans. In each of these wars, Khyber Pass was a strategic target of critical importance. The Pass is a narrow passageway through the Hindu Kush mountains connecting the cities of Peshawar, Pakistan and Kabul, Afghanistan. In all three of these conflicts, the British entered Khyber Pass in order to attack Afghanistan. The party dominating Khyber Pass effectively controlled access to the battlefields of consequence. On more than one occasion, the British suffered grievous losses either traversing Khyber Pass or trying to maintain their control of it. From Khyber Pass arose British stories of bravery and heroism. Dandy, you say, but how does any of this relate to a game made by Oliver Whales in the summer of 1943?

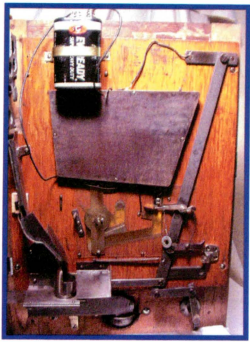
World War II took a horrible toll upon the British people. The early years of the war saw nightly raids by the Luftwaffe that rained bombs down on London in an ungodly marriage of terror and carnage. During the

Blitz of 1940 from the months of September through December, over 13,000 Londoners were killed and another 18,000 seriously wounded by these aerial bombardments. The citizens of London responded with unparalleled courage. The Royal family refused to abandon Buckingham Palace and the country fought back with everything it had. The Royal Air Force defended London with such heroism that Winston Churchill uttered those famous words, “Never has so much been owed by so many to so few.” Denied an outright victory, Germany then attacked Britain with the V-1 “buzz bombs” and later, the V-2’s. The Americans entered the war in December, 1941 but it was not until 1944 and the “D” Day invasion that America and her allies began the final crushing of the Axis machine in Europe. Things in the United Kingdom were still very grim in July of 1943.

I see “Khyber Pass” as a rallying cry to the British. It says, “Remember the past and remain true to your nature. Courage and fidelity will win out and victory will be ours!” Oh, really? Do you see this in the game? Take another look. With “Khyber Pass,” the physical layout of the game is an important clue to the message offered. The playfield is unusual and unique for a Whales game. Whales was a prolific manufacturer of allwins, producing thousands of machines. Almost all his games had a standardized playfield. In the vast majority of his games, the gallery where the ball would be “won” or “lost” was a single horizontal shelf with the traditional five “win” holes flanked by the two outer “lose” holes. (See Photo “B” for a typical example.) Occasionally, he would diverge from this and instead place single “win” cups randomly around the playfield. That was about as original as Oliver Whales got.



Now take another look at the playfield of “Khyber Pass” (Photo “C”). You see an elegant “V” gallery with the name showcased in the center. Center stage is a picture of a valley with a stream running through it. What you cannot see is the interior mechanism of the game, now



visible in Photo "D." "Khyber Pass" is a battery-powered game. When you made a winning shot into either side of the "V" galley, the ball depressed a lever that completed an electrical circuit. This turned on an interior light bulb that illuminated the center of the playfield. At this surprising moment, the player saw the name

"Khyber Pass" together with the lighted river running through the mountains framed by a giant "V" for Victory! (Photo "E".) In glorious fashion, Oliver Whales crafted a plea to his fellow countrymen to recall the challenges of the past and remain steadfast in the belief that victory over Germany would ultimately be theirs.



Did Oliver Whales intend for "Khyber Pass" to be this subliminal call to arms? I certainly think so. Allwins with internal batteries are quite rare and those from WW II even rarer. The only other game from this era with a battery of which I am aware is "Allies Victory Ball" which sounded an "all clear" siren when a winning shot

was made. According to the rest of the internal data inked on the game, "Khyber Pass" was number 9 of only 16 copies made of this triumphant game. Like the odds on winning the war itself, the numbers were small but as history demonstrated, victory goes to those who keep the faith and maintain control of Khyber Pass. What Oliver Whales created was a unique game both in terms of visual symbolism and mechanical design. Taken together, they form an eloquent plea to their countrymen, a rallying cry equivalent to our "Remember the Alamo!"

There are those who will argue that these games we love are merely examples of form over substance. By that, they mean that the form (a machine) is the expression of all that is offered, sort of a "what you see is what you get" analysis. I would argue just the opposite. These games are much more. They are a reflection of society and our concerns at a specific point in time. As proof, I offer you Oliver Whales and his beautiful "Khyber Pass."

Think I'm a little nuts here? Well, it's your turn now, Professor. What do you think, Dr. Freud?

Postlude: How about you? Want to make a pass at my Khyber analysis or just talk about these fabulous British games? You can drop me a line at jp4@charter.net or call 952 891-2312. Next time, we'll look at an early sports game with a moral of its own.

Build your own...

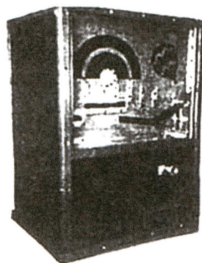
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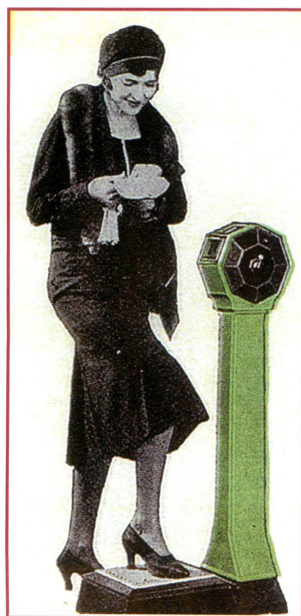
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Three Personal Scales - ca. 1930

Ideal Scale - Rock-Ola LoBoy and Mills Modern Scale

by Jim and Merlyn Collings

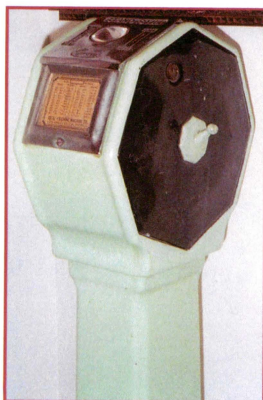
During the Great Depression the need for a smaller compact and less expensive scale was realized by the scale producers. These small scales were called “Waist-High” scales, “LoBoys”, and “Personal” scales. They were characterized by colorful porcelain surfaces, art-deco lines, and features that resembled contemporary sky-scrappers. Some scales also resembled an Egyptian mummy case. These scales are real space savers and take up only 2 sq. feet, making them ideal for the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room, etc. Most of these scales are only 45 inches or less in height.



The first of these scales being described is the Ideal Scale (photo 1). This scale was distributed in Chicago, ILL. by Floyd D. Cerf in charge of midwest and southern districts. The eastern districts were handled in New York,

N.Y. The scale was actually made in Los Angeles, CA. by the Ideal Weighing Machine Co. An octagonal head connected to a rather plain column and foot plate was created by the Ideal Scale Co. It is rumored, however, that they used partial columns from various other companies and modified them.

The Ideal Scale in our collection is depression green and black porcelain. The black octagonal side panel has a green porcelain hook, where jackets, purses and so on, can be hung to attain proper weight (photo 2). The locked side panel can be removed for easy maintenance. The viewing window is made with flat glass or a bubble that magnifies the weight for easier viewing. The penny coin entry is located to right side of the viewing window and states: Coin Here. Below the viewing window encased in a

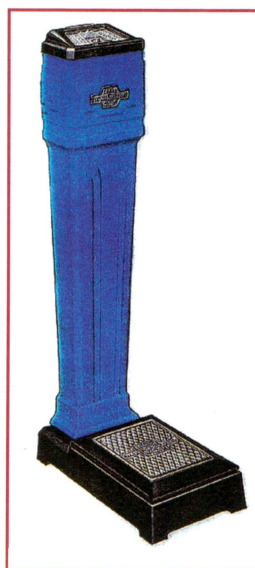


nickel-plated frame is a height and weight chart for men and women (photo 3). The Ideal scale was very popular on the west coast.



The second scale described is the Rock-Ola LoBoy. This scale came in green, white and blue porcelain with

black trim on the head and base (photo 4). It measures 44 inches in height, although a smaller model was 33-1/2 inches. This smaller version probably appealed to children. It was only made in green.



The Rock-Ola LoBoy was a very sturdy and reliable as described in Automatic Age from 1931-1933 (the National magazine of the coin machine industry). It was widely advertised as a profit making machine with art-deco streamlining. The penny coin entry is

located on the top edge of the scale head, and below is a mirror that the patron could use. On each side of the mirror is a height and weight chart for men and women (photo 5). The scale emblem on the tapered column reads: Rock-Ola LoBoy Personal Weight. R.M.C. The foot-plate reads: Trademark Scale Div. of Rock-Ola Mfg. Co., Chicago.

The Rock-Ola LoBoy became very successful even though it was difficult to work on and maintain due to lack of space inside the upper portion of the scale. The term LoBoy was given to many short scales in the 1930s and still persists today.



The third and final personal scale described is the Mills Modern Scale. It is truly a wonderful scale that has sculptured designs and (6) six color combinations.

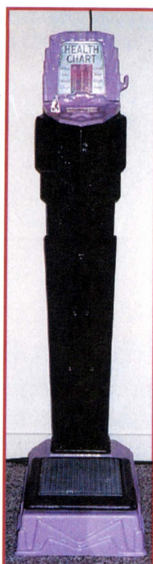
These color combinations made in porcelain came in: ivory/green, ivory/black, sky blue/buff, red/buff, royal blue/orange, mahogany/orchid. In our own collection we have a beautiful mahogany/orchid Mills Modern scale (photo 6). This combination may have been used in a ladies powder room, beauty salon, department store, etc. The rarest color combination for this scale is probably royal blue/orange. It would be a challenge to collect all six color combinations!

The Mills Modern scale has some unique features which includes a stylish coin entry on the left side of the head, a viewing window that magnifies the weight numerals, a porcelain hook attached to the right side of the marquee, and a pocket size mirror above the viewing window (photo 7).



The scale measures 44 inches in height plus a nine inch high marquee. The orchid colored marquee frame is porcelain. It has a very nice sculptured design. The health chart on the marquee is made of thin brass which is nickel-plated.

The height and weight information is acid etched on the chart. The chart suggest: What You Should Weigh and Check Your Weight Daily. Many patrons would weigh themselves daily and would even use other scales to check the accuracy. Often times, the marquee was



missing on these scales because they broke off while moving.

The back portion of the scale has an embossed design of vine and leaves. Also embossed on back is: Product of Mills Novelty Co., Chicago, U.S.A. and: See List of Patents Inside. The cash box near the bottom holds 300 pennies. During the depression this was a fairly lucrative business.

Inside the Mills Modern is a "Dash Pot" or oil cylinder that acts as a type of shock absorber when filled with motor oil. It slows down the mechanism and prevents less trauma. The footplate has a waffle design. The base is mahogany/orchid with a sculptured design. The design resembles a large letter M over a smaller letter M; which might mean Mills Modern. This is one of the most impressive scale bases we've ever seen. A truly remarkable scale! (photo 8).



There are many types of personal scales that can still be found for reasonable prices. They bring back memories of hard times, recovery, the war years, and the end of an era.

Our special thanks go out to Bill and Jan Berning for their valued input.

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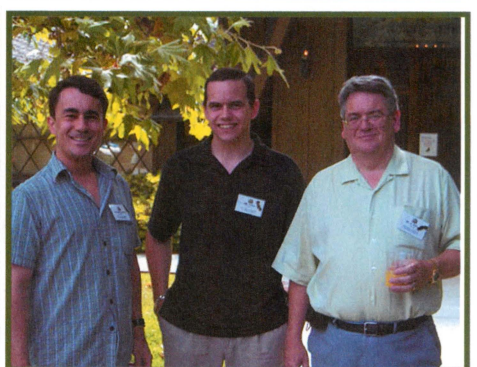
At the meeting in November we will be electing new officers for the upcoming two years. Please attend to vote on the new officers. We will give a final Thank You to Alex, John and Dan for their hard work over the last two years. The club continues to get better and we are looking for more with the new officers. See you in November at the show.

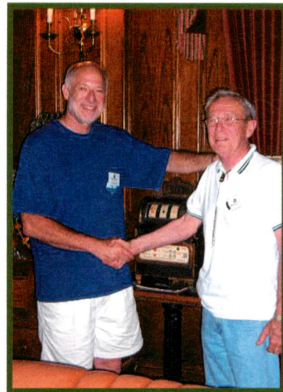
Paul Hindin

CALIFORNIA CONVENTION

The California convention was a huge success. The man who made it was none other than Mr. Northwest-ern himself, Dan Davids. He, along with his associates Janice Mann and Marla Luyk, coordinated the entire event. The dinner, bus rides, auction, room to room selling, all came off without a hitch. The dinner was held at one of the most famous restaurants in California the Sagebrush Cantina. The food and entertainment was outstanding. The auction was a great time for all – Dan had a continuous supply of beverages to keep us happy and hydrated. Paul Hindin did a great job as our volunteer auctioneer (don't give up your day job). Some of the best coin op I have seen in a long time turned up at the auction. According to Dan about 60% of the items changed hands – I am listing some of the auction results, but cannot say which sold or didn't. The list was comprised by another member who did not indicate whether or not an item actually changed hands.

Since there were no buyer or seller premiums completing a transaction was made simple and cost effective. A special thanks to all of those who donated items to be sold for C.O.C.A. The club made about \$600.00 in donations alone. The visits to the collections showed the diversity and range of our hobby. The club members were awed by the gambling and trade stimulator collection of the Goldfarb's, the arcade and gambling collection of the McLemores and the remarkable music collection of the Nix's. Needless to say the opening of ones home to our group is not an easy decision. I have heard no regrets from any of the hosts, actually they were glad to share there passions with a group who so respectfully appreciated the machines. The California C.O.C.A convention sold out (based on the capacity of 2 large buses). I am looking forward to the convention next year. All I can say is make your reservations early.





CONVENTION AUCTION RESULTS

Exhibit Supply Little Gypsy	\$450.	Midget Roulette.....	\$1300.	Lucky Horoscope.....	\$100.
9 Pieces of Coin-Op Literature	\$5.	Case of 21 "For Amusement Only" Books....	\$175.	Simmons Gum Vendor.....	\$275.
3 Jacks (80's repro)	\$225.	Test Your Skill Gun Game.....	\$800.	Master (penny)	\$275.
2 Pair Dice in Pharmacy Jar	\$4.	Mills Hightop 7-7-7 Twin Token (5 cent)	\$1450.	Match Dispenser (Swedish)	\$250.
Electro-Mechanical Slot Machine		Mills Vest Pocket (5 cent)	\$450.	Spiral Trade Stimulator	\$2400.
Mechanism	\$32.50	Love Tester	\$350.	Victor HMS Merchandiser	No Sale
Penny King Gumball (with original globe)....	\$175.	Lotion Dispenser.....	\$100.	Victor Vendorama Pen Dispenser (with top	
Mills Hightop Bluebell Slot (5 cent).....	\$1250.	Display Cabinet	\$250.	marquee and side refill dispenser)	\$150.
Simpson Parts Manual.....	\$40.	Admiral Dewey Penny Drop	\$2000.	Watling Cash Box Key Set (BAP1-BAP12).....	\$80.
Jennings Rock-A-Way.....	\$1700.	"Drop Coin Here (NOS)	\$120.	Simpson Bulk Vendor	\$375.
2 Ice Cream Scoops.....	\$40.	Case of Cards for Lucky Gumball.....	\$100.	Mansfield (No Marquee)	\$900.
Norris Masters Condom Dispenser	\$2050.	Kitzmiller Drop Pocket	\$1500.	Watling Cash box (with lock & key BAP6).....	\$40.
Pok-O-Reel.....	\$350.	Monkey Bank	\$22.	Bluebird Bulk Vendor	\$300.
Mills Vest Pocket	\$300.	Advance Match Vendor	\$700.	Wurlitzer 1015 Sign (repro)	\$6.
1927 Moseley Vending Catalog (reprint)	\$9.	Oak Acorn	\$40.	Scales: A Collector's Guide.....	\$27.
Mills QT 21 Star	\$1400.	Groetchen Sparks	\$400.	Mills FOK (Silent Salesman front)	\$1200.
Hotel Auction Photo (framed)	\$33.	Case of 21 "For Amusement Only" Books....	\$150.	Ohio Vendor	\$500.
Columbus Model A.....	\$300.	Fields Baby Vendor	\$1000.	Advance Penny	\$400.
Hotel Lobby Photo Showing Cigar Cutter		Supreme Delicious Confection Marquee	\$145.	Jergens Lotion Dispenser	\$450.
on Counter (framed)	\$27.	Adams Tutti Frutti Die Cut	\$175.	Ford Gum (copper base)	\$85.
Mills Vest Pocket (5 cent)	\$350.	Van-Lite Lighter Fluid Dispenser	\$650.	EZ Gum	\$700.
Groetchen Punchette.....	\$250.	Master (penny/nickel)	\$175.	National Gum	\$325.
Brunhoff Cigar Cutter Catalog reprint)	\$25.	Mills QT (5 cent)	\$1100.	Simpson 1-2-3.....	\$350.
Baker Kicker Catcher.....	\$400.	Reverse Painted Glass Sign	\$75.	Victor Model K (sidewinder)	\$325.
Hance Heated Nut Vendor	\$2500.	Smilin Sam	\$550.	Magna Vendor.....	\$375.
Wrigley's Jar with Original Box (NOS).....	\$60.	Columbus Slug Rejector (1 cent).....	\$225.	Simpson Aristocrat	\$300.
Coke Clock	\$225.	Daval Penny Pack.....	\$400.	Atlas Midget.....	\$150.
Columbia Deluxe Slot.....	\$600.	Kis Me Die Cut	\$150.	Gum-A-Mib	\$250.
Log Cabin Duplex.....	\$250.	Pace Bantam Gum Dispenser (5 cent)	\$1300.	Advance Dome Match Vendor.....	\$800.
Play Golf	\$4500.	ABT Challenger	\$125.	Columbus RW (with barrel locks).....	\$1000.
Trustem Clock/Cigar Cutter	\$2000.	3 Gum Machines	\$175.	Advance Pencil Vendor (with marquee)	\$225.
Standard Oil Lighter Fluid Dispenser.....	\$400.	Pulver (cop directing traffic)	\$475.	Northwestern Art Match Vendor	\$100.

VENDING GLOBES AND PARTS

New Globes:

Acorn 6, 8, 9, 11 pound	\$30
Advance Small Football.....	\$40
Advance Large Football	\$40
Bluebird Large	\$55
Climax 10	\$75
Columbus #8 with Star.....	\$45
Columbus #8 No Star.....	\$50
Columbus #9 with Star.....	\$50
Columbus #9 No Star.....	\$55
Grandbois Cylinder	\$35
Hamilton	\$55 ea., 2/\$95
Lucky Boy/Bloyd.....	\$40
NW 33 Frosted	\$40 ea., 3/\$100
NW 33 Gumball.....	\$40
Regal Cylinder	\$35
Regal Pear.....	\$40
Silver King	\$40
Simpson Large.....	\$55
Victor Cylinder	\$35
Victor Square	\$35

**10% DISCOUNT
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(310) 349-2082 - or -
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9:30 AM to 3 PM
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Dealer Preview: \$50.00
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Gumball Machines
Country Store Items
Beer Signs
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Scales
Pedal Cars
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Antique Slot Machines
Gas Pumps & Signs

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Penny Arcade Machines
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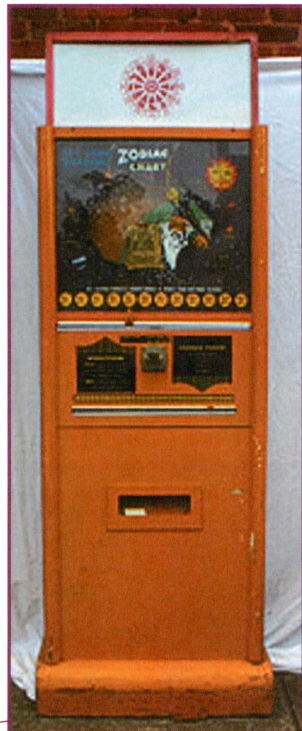
Newnan, Georgia

MARCH 17 AND MARCH 18, 2006

BY P. EVANS (gal. 1287)

WHERE "RARE IS COMMON" AND "ORIGINAL IS KING"

ALL WE NEED IS YOU!!!



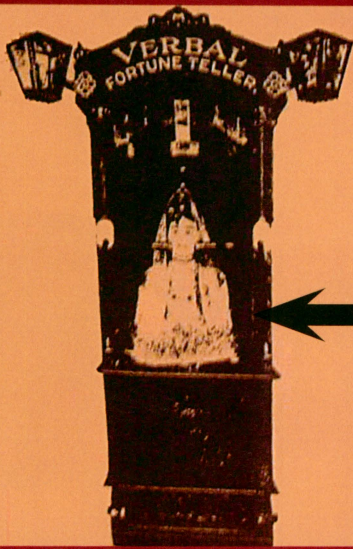
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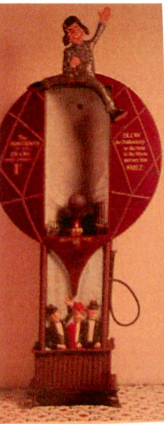
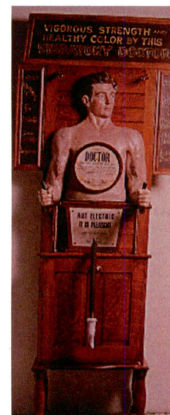
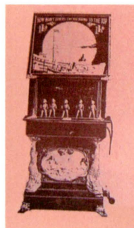
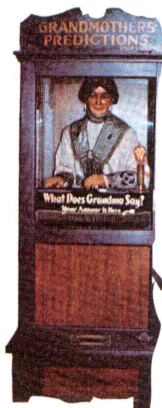
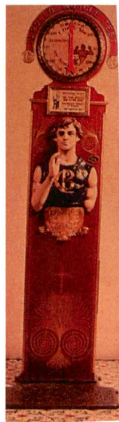


REWARD \$5000

For INFORMATION Leading To
The Purchase of Either of
These Machines!



\$1000 to \$4000 REWARD for information leading to the purchase of these or ANY other machines. I will buy ONE PIECE or ENTIRE collections. "Call me if you're looking for something. I might be able to help."

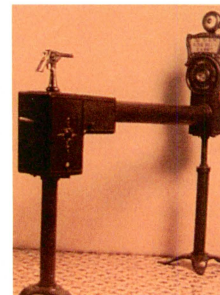


ALL DEALINGS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL and even if not interested in selling, give me a call. I like to talk about coin-ops and to meet other collectors.

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e.g. Laughing Sal

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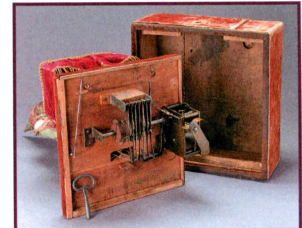
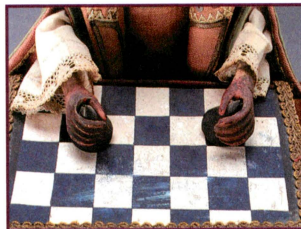
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Winner Gets Penny Returned
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THIS IS WHAT I BUY...CALL ME

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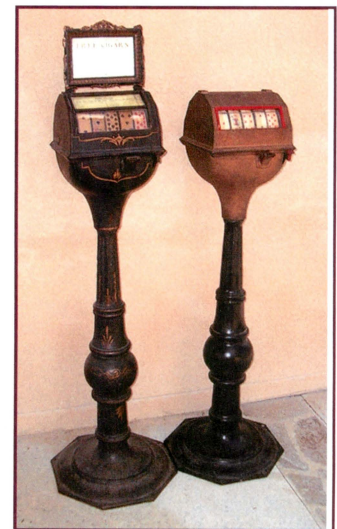
Arcade Interior Photos



Which Machine Has
Such a Lovely Rear?



French Cast Iron



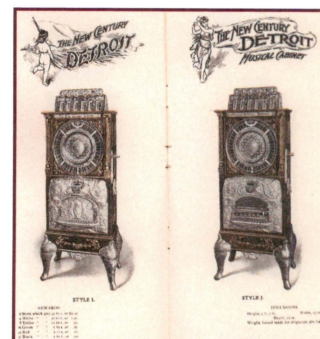
A Gem Original
and a Rat



Old Coin Holders



Ellen & Her Pets



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WANTED \$ WANTED

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WANTED \$ WANTED

Call Toll Free (877) 464-9448
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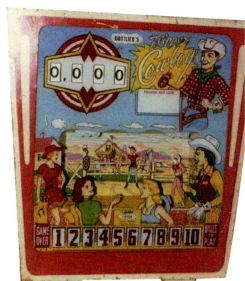
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I am always looking for these as well
as all sports, horseracing themed arcade
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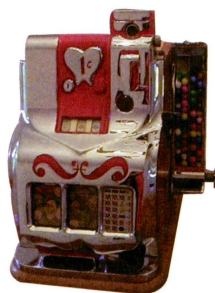
Manikan Sports Games



Watling Rol-A-Top Slots



Golf Ball Slots



QT Slots



Animated Slots



1937 Rock-Ola World Series



Dice Machines



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I'm Always Looking To Buy coin-Operated Machines That Cross My Path:



**Cast Iron Mutoscopes
and Vending Machines**

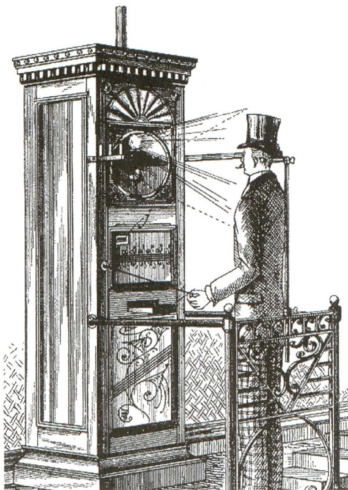


**Dice Machines, Uprights,
Roulettes and More**

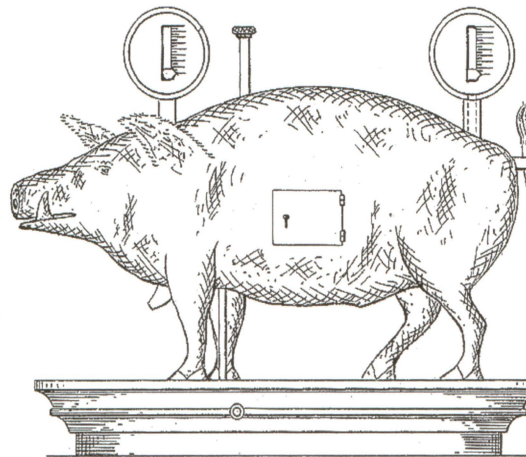


**Cognac Venders and
Other Oddities**

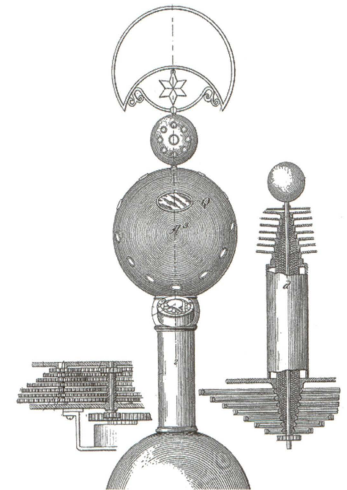
Are Any Of These Waiting To Be Found?



1889 Photo Booth (Chicago)



1896 Strength Tester (New York)



1893 Planetarium (Chicago)

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ALL DEALINGS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.**

**Floor model machines from the 1890s through the 1940s
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Offers may expire or change without notice. Call me.



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Without Reserve**

**Featuring the Scott Bros. Ice Cream
Company family collection from
Topeka, KS. The oldest Ice Cream Co.
in Kansas, founded in 1879.**

**This Auction includes many Signs, Trays,
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Vending Machines, Trade Stimulators, Cash
Registers, Ice Cream Dippers & Molds,
Coca-Cola, Candy & Peanut Jars and MUCH
MORE!**

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This Auction includes many Signs, Trays, Display Cases, Tins, Toys, Banks, Slot and Vending Machines, Trade Stimulators, Cash Registers, Ice Cream Dippers & Molds, Coca-Cola, Candy & Peanut Jars and MUCH MORE!

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A Country Store
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Dear readers, due to the many thousands of e-mails, phone calls, cards, and letters that inundated our COCA Magazine headquarters last month complimenting our last issue's Cigar Machine article by Ken Rubin, we asked Ken to submit a Part Two. Ken consented on the provision that he could be late for the deadline. Alex said no and Ken agreed, but he was late anyway. And here it is. Hope you enjoy.

In the previous issue of C.O.C.A. Times we explored the reasons why so disappointingly few cigar machines exist today, unlike other types of vending machines, such as gum, chocolate, peanut, etc. Aside from normal attrition that affects all coin-ops, blame this on the IRS. Tobacco was the only machine-sold item that was federally taxed, except for chewing gum between 1899 and 1902. Federal law ruled over the manufacturing, distribution, and sales of tobacco products for it was an important source of revenue for the government. Changes to the law and changes in the tax affected all methods of selling cigars, machines included. Many machines were withdrawn and discarded as a result of some of those changes.

Around 1885, the brilliant idea, imported from England, exploded around the country like a light bulb turning on, that it was possible, practical, and potentially profitable to build coin-in-the-slot machines for everyday public transactions. It was a jolt that inspired many individuals to jump into the market by inventing one of their own. Coin-op machines of every nature became all the rage and quickly entered the public's daily view. A novelty at first, the public readily embraced the coin-op machine's practicality and versatility and took delight in them for their inexpensive pleasure-giving.

All coin-operated machines were admired by the public: Penny Arcades were must attend public gathering spaces for the latest in risqué movies, news,

SILENT CIGAR SELLERS

ALL SUBLIME, SOME RIDICULOUS

The Age of Antique
Cigar Vending Machines

PART TWO

by **Ken Rubin**
DropCoinHere@aol.com

music, sound entertainment and technology, and many other low-cost amusements. Vending Machines were the first 24-7 instant gratification salesmen and the beginning of automatic retailing. They burst onto the public scene. And Gambling Machines, the nefarious but scintillating mechanical entertainments, were popping up and being played everywhere.

In the formative period of the coin-op industry between 1885 and 1900, machines were invented and manufactured by many individuals who sold and operated them. It was happening all over the country and the market was smokin', a reflection of a booming period of US economic growth. The vending of any type of consumable or service that could be made coin-operated would not be overlooked. It was a market bubble that didn't burst – it

just settled down from an abundance of competition. By the turn of the 20th century the coin-op industry was well on its way to establishing itself as having a major economic presence with many large factories that had national and international distribution.

Cigar machine design was a big challenge to the individual inventor. First, a new technique of mechanical delivery had to be conceived of in order to obtain a patent. Since the cigar machine industry was still relatively new, patents were in effect on nearly all the machines out there.

Second, since cigars were delicate and came in all sizes and shapes, how to insure that they were delivered without being injured, damaged, or mutilated was an obvious challenge to budding inventors; hear that up there Mr. Vandiver? The variety of mechanical concepts invented for cigar vending is amazing for its wide range of spatial imagination. There are many more patent drawings that confirm crazy, wonderful, and humorous cigar machine ideas but, alas, no machines exist.

Third, from the start, it was a battle between the emboldened scoundrels who attempted to cheat the unsecured silent salesmen and the inventors who needed new ideas to thwart them. Losing a nickel for the cigar machine to a crook was very injurious to the profits. Many machines gave notice of rewards to

squealers. A machine disappeared quickly if it became a mark and was replaced by an improved model or something different entirely. But inventors faced the enemy and normally won.

At the time these coin-op machines appeared they were helping to expand our daily leisure time and shopping experience while spreading democratic good will. They came to our neighborhoods to be among us; they took anyone's coin and performed equally without regard to race, gender, age or good looks. They were public treat stations, stalwart sellers of instant little pleasurable experiences for just a small coin.

The customer was always happy.

I'd like a 5¢ Havana.

International Cigar Vending Machine Co.

The target customer when selling any type of coin-op machine is the person who will operate it for profit and income, not the retail customer. Selling silent cigar sellers began with the premise that there was already a massive market of cigar smoking customers out there to sell to, and there was. It was left only to convey how well suited a particular machine was for serving that market to convince the businessman to purchase one machine or a whole route's worth. After all, nearly EVERY man smoked cigars; it was a sure thing! The machine manufacturers' advertising message was how MUCH money YOU can make with their product. Greed was good-- grand expectations exclaimed. What they never mention is where the competition comes from. The hustle of selling routes of vending machines still continues today. Caveat Emptor.

In this ad, "The first and only automatic coin-in-the-slot cigar vending machine," was certainly an exaggeration. And the claim, "Never fails – infallible delivery – never makes mistakes," makes this the only perfect coin-op machine in history. Ridiculous, of course, but this was as promising an opportunity as many other manufacturers' offers.

Between 1906 and 1911, Mr. John Schmidt received seven cigar machine patents for The International Vending Machine Co. of St. Louis. For a while he even lived in his office, working very hard and determined to improve on the mechanics of his invention.

THE RED BOOK MAGAZINE THE C



You Can Make
from \$10.00 to \$50.00 a day

on an investment of a few hundred dollars and
secure a monopoly of the cigar business of your
town or county by owning and operating 10 or more

**International Cigar
Vending Machines**

The first and only automatic coin-in-the-slot
cigar vending machine. Never fails—infal-
lible delivery—never makes mistakes—exposes bad
coins and delivers every cigar in perfect condition.
So simple it never gets out of order. No clerk
hire—no rent—no Government or State license
required—works 24 hours out of 24 every day in
the year.

Doesn't Interfere With Your Other Business—
less than an hour a day required to look after a
plant of 100 machines. If you have a few dollars to
invest take it up as a side line and insure yourself

An Income for Life

We will sell you a number of machines, give
you the exclusive right to operate them in your
choice of towns or counties and protect you
from competition for all time to come.

Quick Action Necessary

Live investors everywhere are rapidly taking
up desirable towns and counties.

WRITE TO-DAY
(before somebody else gets the territory you want) for full infor-
mation, descriptive booklet and names and addresses of people now
successfully operating our machines.

Ask Don, Hendreest or any St. Louis Bank about our reliability
and the capital back of our business.

INTERNATIONAL VENDING MACHINE CO.
243 Chestnut St., St. Louis, Mo.

Doremus Cigar Advertising and Distributing Machine

The Doremus is all about business. As production was beginning in 1902, in order to raise capital, a prospectus was issued seeking investors through a public stock offering outlining the merits of the machine and the plan of operation by the company. In a supporting letter accompanying a prospectus addressed to one Reverend P.C. Creveling of Liberty, NY, the sales promotion claims:

"At 50 cents a share, minimum 50 shares, the stock of the company is a great bargain which you can readily see for yourself if you figure what 20,000 machines all of which are making ten cents a day amounts to in the course of a year. Active preparations are now under way for the placing of an initial 1000 machines in New York City."

Although no promises were made as to when a dividend would be declared, records show that on May 29th Rev. Creveling invested in fifty shares and held them for more than two years. There are no records, however, to indicate whether he ever made any money.

Eye-catching with its Victorian flourishes and compact, the copper-plated cast iron cigar vender successfully found its way into many saloons, general stores and barber shops. Simply depositing a nickel and moving the lever up and down vends a cigar.

In 1903, The Coca-Cola Company expanded sales of its fountain syrup to the lucrative chewing gum market by licensing its name to an outside manufacturer that became The Coca-Cola Gum Co. The gum company adapted the Doremus Cigar Vender, with different signage, to sell its Coca-Cola brand of cigar-sized chewing gum rolls. By 1924, after several corporate name changes and financial problems, gum production was halted and the licensing arrangement terminated.

Attachment accessories for the Doremus included a cigar cutter, match holder and wall mounting bracket. A slug



detection window on the shelf was built in for the dealer, "The object in thus keeping the money in view is to prevent unscrupulous people from trying to work the machine with spurious coin," declares the operating instructions. The inventor and company president, Willard D. Doremus, obtained two patents in 1901. His design has a semi-circular slug window. An improved model, patented Oct 11, 1904 by C. Disbrow, has a rectangular slug window (pictured). It also fixed a "frequent" problem of the "cigar or merchandise such as chewing-gum" getting "either cut in half or badly mutilated." Maybe cigars liked to be mutilated, eh Mr. Vandiver?

Instructions inside to operators of this machine:

"The Internal Revenue Regulations require that all cigars must be sold from the original package; that all of the box be in the machine, and that the Caution Notice, Factory Number and Cancelled Stamps be exposed so that they can easily be inspected, and that the part of the stamp showing the number of cigars originally in the box be in plain sight....Internal Revenue Inspectors will confiscate the cigars UNLESS THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE COMPLIED WITH TO THE LETTER."

The same machine was made for M.L. Dohan Co. of Quebec, Canada that sold 10¢ cigars and gave an extra cigar for every five purchases. Note, to obey IRS rules, a box of cigars would be installed in the top and not loose cigars as shown. The maker was the Doremus Automatic Vending Co., 135 Broadway, New York and distribution was handled by The New York Vending Company. Produced by the many thousands, possibly twenty of these Sublime cigar and gum versions stick around. 18"h



The six patents awarded for this machine are cited in the rear casting.

The Garson Automatic Cigar Vending Machine



Does the pretty Gibson Girl smoke cigars too? In this case, sex in cigar advertising sells not only cigars but the machine that sells the cigars.

The Garson Cigar Vending Machine was invented by Isaac H. Garson, of Rochester, NY, who was awarded three patents in 1907 & 08. Each one had the object to "provide means for preventing injury to machine and breakage of cigars." Since no Garson machine still exists, we're not sure he succeeded. In a perfect world, no cigar would get broken before it got burned, right Mr. Vandiver?

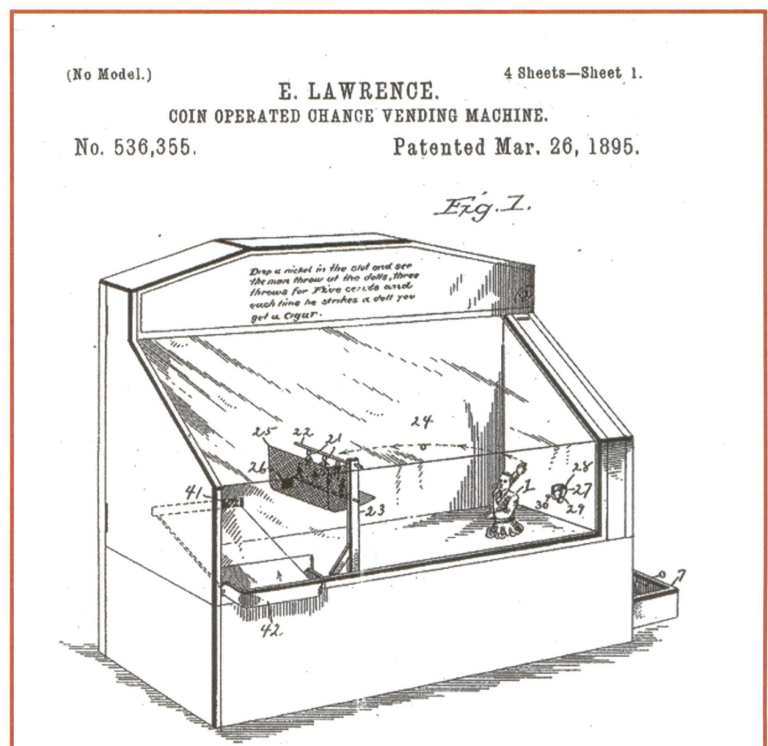
"Drop a nickel in the slot and see the man throw at the dolls, three throws for Five cents and each time he strikes a doll you get a cigar."

The many patents for cigar vending machines included novelty trade stimulator games and gambling devices such as this 1895 design.

The customer could always buy a nickel cigar from a clerk in a store or from a vending machine. But by appealing to his gambling instinct the customer could enjoy playing this miniature carnival game of chance and risk getting nothing at all or winning up to three cigars for his one nickel, a pitch and butt, sort of. The machine's design is a real winner because it actually pays out a cigar for each doll hit. In general, very few trade stimulators were designed to mechanically dispense cigars; the majority required a human attendant to pay off the winner.

The IRS did not have cigar tax issues with coin-op machines that were selling game or gambling play and giving away cigars as a reward, as long as pre-taxed cigars were given out. There are no surviving examples of Mr. Lawrence's creation.

Coin-Op Chance Cigar Vender/Game



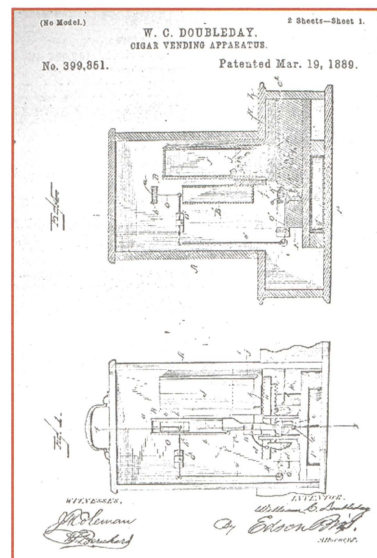
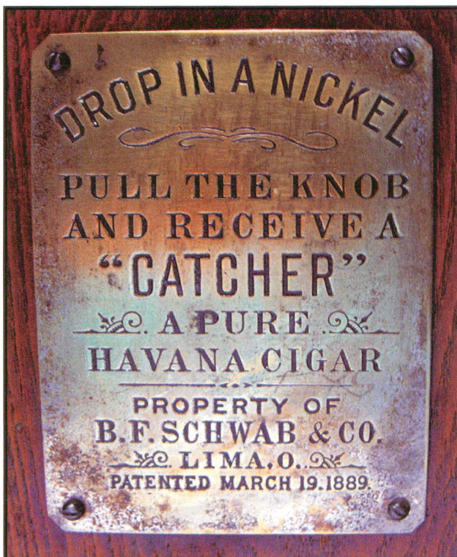
Catcher Cigars



Is the message baseball's at play and here's the Catcher or what the world really needs is a good 5¢ Havana and here is the source?

The Catcher Cigar Vender has an impressive fortress-like oak case designed in the popular Eastlake style to evoke modern character, confidence, and machismo to catch the cigar buyer. A simple iron mechanism holds a box of cigars mounted vertically inside.

With no windows, this is a rare example of machines produced prior to the early 1890's IRS directive that required all cigar machines to clearly display the paid tax stamps on the box inside. Currently, The Catcher is the oldest surviving, patented American cigar vender known and judging from the serial #609 on the coin slot, at least hundreds were produced. Surprisingly, today's collectors have caught three examples. B.F. Schwab & Co, Lima O. Patented March 19, 1889. 20" h



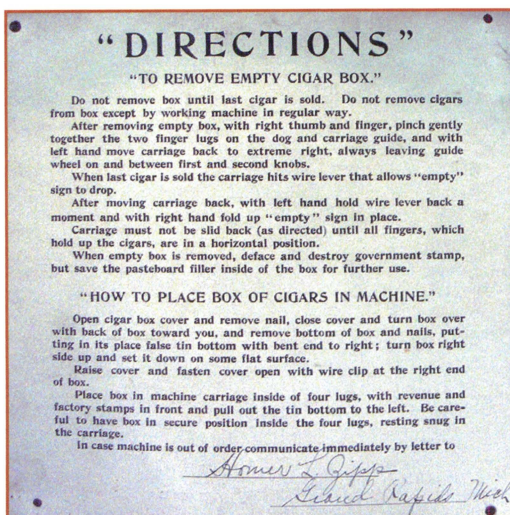
Mr. W.C. Doubleday of Lima O. assigned the patent to the B.F. Schwab Co. to carry out the manufacturing. The machine was likely placed on location by the company on a profit sharing arrangement, selling only the company's own brand of cigar.

The Homer Gipp Cigar Vender

While no information clearly identifies the maker of this bulky but curvy counter-top machine, since Homer Gipp signed his name in it, that's how we call it. What the initials LD CO on the front means is not understood.

Overall, the machine makes a substantial, macho presentation to the buyer with the cigar label clearly in view. In operation, a moving carriage holds a cigar box with its bottom removed. A nickel pushed in the slot and a turn of the handle moves the box incrementally one step from left to right and allows a cigar to drop into the receptacle. At the end of the boxes' travel an "empty" sign pops up.

The marvelous mechanism is an overly complicated contraption. Likely, it was Homer's Last Cigar Stand. One known. ca 1910. 18"h.x 21"w.

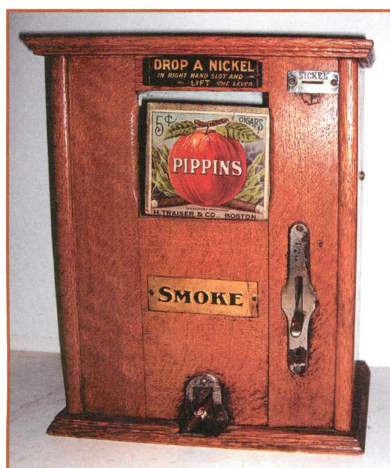


The hinged cover was a factory accessory made for locations where service was not offered after hours. Notice the generous box of matches at the bottom that offers a free light.



It all makes sense once you've done it several times but trying to follow these maintenance directions the first time is worse than trying to do a Chinese puzzle. To wit: "...with the right thumb and finger, pinch gently together the two finger lugs on the dog and carriage guide..."

The signature of Homer L. Gipp, Grand Rapids Mich, follows after, "In case machine is out of order communicate immediately by letter." If Homer replied with a repair suggestion that was written in the same manner as these directions are, it was a Mexican standoff. Homer Gipp hits a homer for a Ridiculous Cigar Machine Award!



Smoke Cigars

"Smoke" – is it a suggestion or a command? Either way this straightforward cigar machine wants to smoke out a cigar smoker and get him to cough up a nickel. Made of oak and iron, the cigar box sits upside down with its lid appearing in the window. After dropping in a nickel, the lever is lifted up and a cigar drops down. The simple iron mechanism is rugged and reliable. Maker and date unknown as yet. ca.1900. One known. 18"h.

Universal Cigar Vender

Here's a machine rated Sublime while its advertising is certified Ridiculous.

"The Prince of Vending Machines," claims the hyperbole filled sales brochure seeking buyers for the Universal Cigar Vender. "A Monarch of Money Makers," it cheerfully declares. It continues: Why Work for Others When with a Small Investment a Princely Income Can Be Secured. "This is the 'Vending Machine Age.' Get your share of the profits..."

If the customer is still on the fence, it piles on: "Statistics show us that there are smoked annually in the United States alone one million billion five cent cigars." Awesome! What about the rest of the world? Think universal, Universal!

"Write Us Today. Tomorrow May Be Too Late. Fifty Universal Venders Costing Approximately \$750 Will Earn You Net \$5,212 Per Annum. Can You Beat It?" Wow! Do you deliver next day to Brooklyn?

The case is artfully made in cast-iron with antique copper flashing; the mechanism is a quality design. What we don't have yet is an accurate date. The Universal Vending Machine Co, Battle Creek Michigan. ca 1905. This only one was sold at auction in 2004.



Photo credit: Tom Tollworthy

Every sales pitch was thrown into this brochure to sell the machine, truthful, absurd or not. The machine's major limitation was its very heavy weight.

Will not remove the Venders from that territory or city without our written permission. In this way you are able to operate without competition. Write us saying what territory you want, and we will name you price for the number of machines required, if the territory is still open. We guarantee this machine to work perfectly, and we will replace any parts that are defective in workmanship or material.

Write Us Today. Tomorrow May Be Too Late.
Fifty Universal Venders, Costing Approximately \$750, Will Earn You Net \$5,212.00 Per Annum. Can You Beat It?

Manufactured by
Universal Vending Machine Co.
Battle Creek, Mich.

"A Monarch of Money Makers"
The Prince of Vending Machines

UNIVERSAL CIGAR VENDER

The only "Cigar Vender" that will sell cigars from any box and any shape cigar. No special size or shape cigar required or special packing.

It will sell your home brands which are popular in your local city.

Why Work for Others When with a Small Investment a Princely Income Can Be Secured?

This is the "Vending Machine Age." Get your share of the profits, but to get the most, vend some commodity that is staple and in which you have no competition.

Statistics show us that there are smoked annually in the United States alone

One Million Billion Five Cent Cigars

Do you realize how many that is? Stop and think a minute. That is why our automatic machines for vending cigars pay better than all other commodity-vending machines to get you. That is why for more than twelve years there has been a demand for a machine that would automatically sell cigars; yet it has remained for us to give to the public that machine.

COST OF CIGARS

A good cigar, such as is usually sold for five cents, can be bought for thirty-five dollars per thousand; of this **TEN DOLLARS** consists of cost of advertising and selling, twenty dollars stock, making, revenue and profit. Therefore it will be seen that a good unadvertised cigar may be bought in quantities for **TWENTY DOLLARS PER THOUSAND** put up under **YOUR OWN LABEL** and of the same quality as the retailer pays \$35.00 per thousand for. The fact that the cigar is not an advertised brand is no disadvantage because their being sold through the Universal Cigar Vender is the best and most effective advertising the cigars could receive.

Number of Cigar Venders You Can Operate

It has been found from former experience of the best operators that one Universal Vending Machine to each 200 rated population gives the best results both as regards location and patronage. Thus, if your town is 50,000 population, fifty Venders would meet the requirements of the trade.

LOCATION FOR VENDERS

Generally speaking, any place will prove a good location for the Vender if men visit the place who have money. Among

there might be mentioned barber shops, restaurants, hotels, billiard halls, lodge rooms, club rooms, shooting galleries, bowling alleys, news stands, boarding houses, cigar stores, saloons, grocery and general stores. In every town there are conditions which are purely local and which would make the operation of machines profitable in places not here enumerated.

Where machines are located, a commission, usually to per cent of the gross receipts, is paid for the privilege.

WEEKLY EARNINGS

To illustrate the earning capacity of the Universal Cigar Vender, we will take fifty Venders, figure them on a basis of **ONLY FIFTEEN CIGARS PER DAY**, six days to the week.

SIX DAYS' PROFIT

Dr.		Cr.
Most of cigars, 4500		
at \$2.00 per M.....	\$90.00	
10 per cent on gross		
also paid for loca-		
tion privileges.....	\$2.50	
1 man to collect fees		
and fill machines 6		
days at \$2.00.....	\$12.00	
Net profit for one w.k.	\$105.50	
		\$25.00

Sales from 50 Universal Cigar Venders: 6 days at 15 cigars per day, 4500 cigars sold at \$2.00..... \$225.00

One Hundred and One Dollars' Net Profit

It will be seen from the above that we have taken as the daily sales the very low estimate of fifteen cigars per machine, and that we figure but six days, while many if not all of the Venders could be operated on Sunday with greatly increased sales.

Exclusive Territorial Rights

If the number of Venders are purchased that the locality will accommodate the number being agreed upon between us) we give with them a perpetual permit to operate them, agreeing on our part to allow no other Venders to go into your territory, we requiring of you an agreement that you

Jacobs Cigar Vender

There were three different mechanisms used by The Jacobs Cigar Vendor Company during its run in business between 1903 and 1911. The first two required the customer to push in a plunger to get a cigar. The third version, the best, featured a clockwork motor design that delivered a cigar automatically and rang a bell. It had the unusual and sophisticated mechanical ability to deliver six cigars for five nickels: one cigar each time for the first four nickels and twice for the fifth. Perhaps competition made it necessary.

The Jacobs name comes from the money man, Alonzo Jacobs of Independence, Mo. Alonzo got his start in the cigar business from a 1903 patent assigned to him by Fred Hartell of Pottawatomie County, Okla. who was likely bought out. The company prospered in Chickasha, Okla. and around 1905, changed the name to the Jacobs Automatic Cigar Vendor Company.

In July 1907, the company moved to Kansas City, Mo., and re-incorporated back to the original name. It was capitalized with 100 grand, with Alonzo putting up \$99,400 and six other very unequal partners anteing up \$100 each. Were his first four business years that successful?

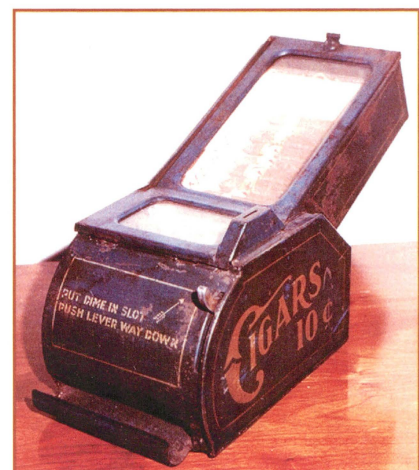
The new line of machines was based on mechanisms for which Alonzo himself received patents in 1907 and 1909. The company was formed "to manufacture, buy and sell cigars, gum and candies, and to manufacture, buy, sell, lease or rent vending machines..." In 1910, possibly with business in decline, President Alonzo moved in from Independence, Mo. but left Kansas City by the end of the year. We wonder if he lost much of his 99 grand investment.



Around 8 Jacobs's machines, or Alonzo's legacy, still exist in one and three box models with various mechanisms. 19" h

Here's a charming, simple gravity cigar vender that works well with round cigars. Gravity venders did not have positive action mechanisms to move the cigars. It is made of cast iron, sheet metal, and glass with stenciled lettering and decorations all around. No company identification as yet. A few exist in various conditions. ca. 1915.

Cigars 10 Cents



I wrote this article with the tickle that the cigar machines give to me – I hope I passed it along. And yes, I like to smoke one on special occasions. I would again like to remember Dick Bueschel and thank him for his research work and patent library that contributed to this article. He was so far ahead of us.

If any collectors would like to send to me photos of their cigar venders, it might be possible to provide a patent copy. And should thousands more of positive feedbacks come in again, there could be a part three. May the coin-op force be with you.

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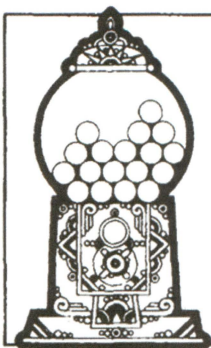
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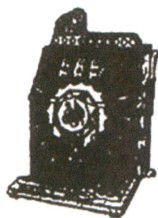
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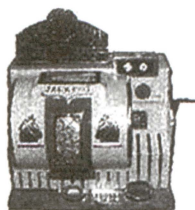


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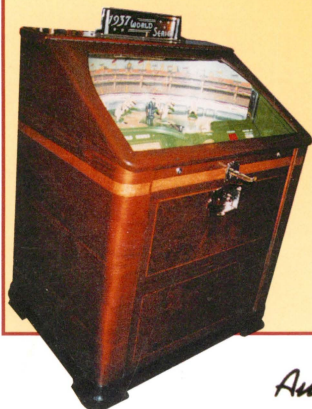
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